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by City Manager's Office  
*Memorandum*

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Debra Figone

**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Weekly Report

**DATE:** December 4, 2009

**INFORMATION**

Following are the key activities to be highlighted this week:

***Holiday Construction Restrictions Ensure Ease of Access to San José Commercial Areas***—As in past years, Public Works has notified utility customers that excavations in high-use areas will be restricted from November 23, 2009 through January 4, 2010. Originally, restrictions on excavations applied to the Downtown area only. This year, restricted areas have been expanded to include streets near the following shopping centers: Capitol Square, Eastridge, Oakridge, Valley Fair/Santana Row and the Westgate/El Paseo Center. For more information, contact Timm Borden, Deputy Director of Public Works, at 535-8499.

***City of San José Receives Congratulatory letters from Representative Mike Honda***—The City recently received letters of congratulations from Representative Mike Honda for the following awards of federal funds to San José from the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

- With the assistance of Representative Honda, the City has received a grant from the BJA for the Striving Towards A New Direction (S.T.A.N.D.) program in the amount of \$250,000. The S.T.A.N.D. Program offers youth, ages 11-18, skills to successfully connect with their home, school and community while becoming productive citizens. The goals of the program are to increase and improve academic achievement skills, reduce delinquent behavior and prevent further involvement in gang activity. For FY 2009-10, the program will target 14 middle and elementary schools in the City of San José and anticipates enrolling 1260 students. For more information, contact Abraham Chacko, Senior Analyst, PRNS, at 793-5560.
- In addition, the City has received a supplemental award from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance in the amount of \$50,000 awarded to SJPd's Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF). The Human Trafficking Task Force Initiative's goal is to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking. Financial assistance from BJA provides monies to proactively investigate all forms of trafficking in the community with a result of successful prosecution of traffickers, as well as to provide training, technical assistance, victim services, and community education. This award augments the previous award from \$250,000 to \$300,000 and extends the award through 9/30/10. For more information, contact Lisa Perez, Chief Administrative Officer, Police Department, at 277-2450.

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***Sewer Service Charge Assessment Correction***—An error occurred in the City's Sewer Service Charge assessment for FY 2009-10 property tax roll (approximately \$71,000 was over assessed on a total assessment of approximately \$110 million). The over assessment was due to applying rates for the 2009-10 Secured Property Tax Roll. Staff developed the assessments based on the Council adopted rate schedules contained in a May 26, 2009 Council Memo (item 3.6, 6/16/09); however, these schedules contained a calculation error which was subsequently corrected. Due to the timing of the tax roll submittal to the County, there was insufficient time to reflect these changes on the 2009-10 tax roll. To correct this matter, the Finance Department has credited all accounts for the amount overcharged. The credit will be reflected as an off-set to the 2010-11 tax roll assessments. Notices have been mailed to approximately 300 property owners who were overcharged by at least \$50.

To avoid any future confusion in developing and assessing the rates, staff will build additional time into the rate setting process by submitting rates earlier in the year to Council. This additional lead time will allow sufficient time to make any necessary adjustments prior to submittal to the County Tax Collector's Office. For more information, contact Scott P. Johnson, Director of Finance at 535-7000.

***TSA to Make Final Delivery of Baggage Screening Equipment This Month***—The Federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will deliver four CTX 9800 explosive detection machines for the Terminal A baggage system the week of December 14. The machines will be delivered on successive nights and installed the following mornings. The Airport does not expect any noticeable impacts to Airport operations or passengers during the holiday season. This will complete the delivery of all TSA equipment needed for the state-of-the-art baggage systems in both Terminal A and B. Terminal B equipment was delivered in October. The TSA and the Airport will conduct a thorough testing of the equipment before the machines can begin operating. The baggage systems for both terminals are now scheduled to be completed this spring, well before the scheduled opening of Terminal B. For more information, contact Bill Sherry, Director of Aviation, at 501-7600.

***Department of Transportation (DOT) Completes Tree Inventory Sampling*** – As part of the development of a Citywide Community Forest Master Plan, a nine-month effort to inventory a statistically valid sampling of existing street trees and missing street tree plantable sites throughout the City was completed in early November. This effort, called iTree-Streets, was developed by the U.S. Forest Service as a data collection and reporting tool that assists cities, counties and other jurisdictions in gathering tree inventory information. This project is the first time that the City has been able to document in a statistically valid manner the approximate number of street trees in San José's Community Forest. The sample of 3.1% of existing street segments yielded an estimate of 242,650 street trees and 87,580 vacant plantable sites. The report also indicates that the City derives nearly \$24 million in annual benefits from the street tree population in areas such as carbon sequestration, storm water reduction, air pollution mitigation and enhanced property values. It is estimated that, by the end of FY 2009-2010, the iTree-Streets project along with other tree inventory efforts will result in detailed inventory information for more than 50% of the City's street trees. This information is critical for the development of funding strategies for tree planting and establishment as well as long-term tree maintenance, and supports the achievement of the Green Vision goal of planting 100,000 new trees by 2022. For more information, please contact, Ralph Mize, City Arborist at 277-5514.

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***JetBlue Moved from Terminal C to Terminal A This Week; United and Continental to Move Next Week***—On December 3, JetBlue relocated from Terminal C to the newly upgraded Terminal A. United and Continental Airlines will make similar moves next week. Following the relocations by JetBlue, United and Continental, the Airport will reconfigure the ticket counters in Terminal C to accommodate Delta/Northwest, US Airways, Alaska/Horizon and Frontier in that order from south to north. The remaining Terminal C carriers will move to either Terminal A or Terminal B in June, prior to the opening of the new terminal on June 30. In addition, the Airport Communications Center, which handles all dispatch operations for the Airport, will move next week from Terminal A to its new space in the Operations Area of the Terminal B Concourse. For more information, contact Bill Sherry, Director of Aviation, at 501-7600.

***One-Day Regional Park Closures Begin***—On November 30, the one-day- per week park closures began at four of the City's regional parks. PRNS staff posted highly-visible signage and conducted extensive outreach over the past 30 days to make the public aware of the pending change in park hours at Almaden Lake, Alum Rock, Overfelt Gardens and Prusch Farm. Serious operational issues were not experienced during the first week of the new schedule. The four parks were selected to close every Monday to reduce maintenance costs in accordance with the 2009-10 Adopted Budget. Guadalupe River Park, Kelley Park and Lake Cunningham Park, the most popular regional park sites remain open seven days per week. For more information, contact Mona Favorite-Hill, Communications Manager, PRNS at 793-5589.

***Casa Feliz Recognitions***—On November 23, the City's Housing Department was informed that Casa Feliz, a 60 unit – energy efficient – Single Room Occupancy (SRO) development for extremely low-income tenants, won the LEED New Construction GOLD from the U.S. Green Building Council. Additionally, Casa Feliz has won two water conservation awards: Santa Clara Valley Stormwater Award and the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award. Casa Feliz has set aside 35% of its units for mainstreaming developmentally disabled individuals who will be served by Housing Choices Coalition, an on-site supportive service provider. For more information, contact Leslye Krutko, Director of Housing, at 535-3851.

***Senior Companion Program Featured***—On November 29, the City's Senior Companion Program was featured in the Mercury News Wish Book. The Senior Companion Program (SCP) suffered a major loss in funding through State budget cuts in 2009 and is now seeking donations to maintain the program. SCP, in partnership with the Corporation for National Community Service, helps elderly residents maintain independence while living in their homes. San José's program is comprised of 50 volunteers, whose primary function is to provide companionship to seniors who are homebound, frail, isolated or at risk of premature placement into a nursing home. The City's program is unique in that it provides Companions who speak Chinese, English, Farsi, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese. In addition, the Companions become the "eyes and ears" for families who may be unable to tend to their elderly relatives. For more information, contact Tina Wong-Erling, Gerontology Supervisor, PRNS at 979-7904.

***All- Girls Team Wins at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Robotics Tournament***—On November 14, the *Techie Girls*, an all-girl, 4<sup>th</sup> grade robotics team, took the Championship Award at the 2nd Annual *First Lego League Robotics* Tournament at Camden Community Center. Twenty-eight teams from the Western San José region participated in the event. The *Techie Girls* won the all-around title and will advance towards the State Championship Tournament with 10 other teams. To qualify for the Championship Award, teams must demonstrate outstanding presentations on the environment,

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creating and demonstrating their robot design, and team work. Camden Community Center's Robotics Lab continues to be a designated location for independent teams to develop and practice their Lego robots on game boards and to develop future local teams. For more information, contact Kiersten McCormick, Recreation Supervisor, PRNS at 559-8553.

***History Park's Latest Museum to Host Major Kwanzaa Festival***—On December 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the African American Heritage House, the latest museum in the History Park/Kelley Park complex, will host a Kwanzaa Festival. The celebration is designed to give all residents an opportunity to understand and experience the seven-day Kwanzaa holiday. Festivities will include ethnic foods, live entertainment and a traditional parade at 1 p.m. There will also be hands-on activities for children, and a focus on healthy living by local non-profit, *A Cup of Cold Water*. This will be the first Kwanzaa celebration for the African American Heritage House (AAHH). AAHH serves as an educational showcase of the history and heritage of African Americans in Silicon Valley. It also hosts community meetings, art exhibits, workshops, festivals, cultural events, musical, and theatrical presentations. The museum is housed in Zanker House, a 140-plus-year-old Italianate farmhouse. The Kwanzaa Festival will include tours of Zanker House. For more information, contact Sandra Dailey at 398-8044 or at [aahhsanjose@aol.com](mailto:aahhsanjose@aol.com).

***"Wonders of Our Water Works" - Plant Bus Tours Update***—The 2009 public tour season has officially concluded with the last tours of the year conducted on November 21, 2009. Over 2,400 people toured the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant from May through November and close to 1,500 public input surveys were collected. Plant tours have become a valuable resource in raising public awareness about the wastewater treatment plant as well as for the gathering input for the development of the Plant Master Plan – a project designed to guide the plant for the next 30 years. Public tours are expected to resume in early spring 2010. For more information, contact Bruce Frisbey, Tour Manager, at 975-2556 or visit <http://sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan>

**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

***Christmas in the Park***—Friday, November 27 through Friday, December 27, 2009, Plaza de Cesar Chavez. For more information, contact Brian Clappitt, Event Coordinator, at 794-6203.

***One-Stop Homeless Prevention Center Tours***—One-hour tours on the innovative services provided at EHC LifeBuilders' new One-Stop Homeless Prevention Center located at 2011 Little Orchard Street. The tours consist of a short presentation outlining the program, how it assists clients to achieve stability and self-sufficiency in Santa Clara County, and additional information such as program goals and outcomes, success stories, as well as methods and principles implemented at the site.

- Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Ray Bramson at 539-2103 or at [rbramson@ehclifebuilders.org](mailto:rbramson@ehclifebuilders.org).

***Time To Listen Documentary Premier*** – On Friday, December 4, the Housing Department will host a premier of the documentary *Time To Listen*. This moving documentary, created by one of the Housing Department's AmeriCorps VISTA members, breaks down the myths surrounding

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they became homeless, their lives, challenges, and aspirations. In addition to the movie, the event will celebrate and recognize many of the faithful individuals who have volunteered at service events for homeless residents over the past year.

**Location:** Roosevelt Community Center, 901 E. Santa Clara St.  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2009  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. - Welcome message, followed by dinner service, volunteer recognition, and film screening

\*Suggested donation of \$10/person\*

To RSVP, contact Michael Briesch at [Michael.briesch@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Michael.briesch@sanjoseca.gov) at 975-2647. For additional information, contact Jessica Scheiner at 975-4417.

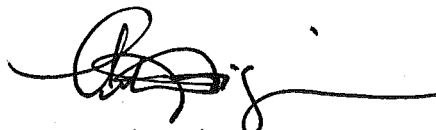
***Heritage Holiday***—Saturday, December 5, 12 p.m. -5 p.m., Kelley Park/History Park. For more information, contact Pam Watson at 918-1055.

***San José Holiday Parade***—Sunday, December 6, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., Guadalupe River Park Arena Green. For more information, contact Brian Clampitt, Event Coordinator, at 794-6203.

***Kwanzaa Celebration***—Saturday, December 19, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Zanker House, Kelley Park/History Park. For more information, contact Sandra Dailey at 398-8044 or at [aahhsanjose@aol.com](mailto:aahhsanjose@aol.com)

***NWBA D3 San José Spokes Tournament***—Saturday, January 30 and Sunday, January 31, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Camden Community Center. For more information, contact Lee Williamson at 369-6438.

***California League Wheelchair Basketball Tournament***—Saturday, February 20, and Sunday, February 21, from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m., Camden Community Center. For more information, contact Lee Williamson at 369-6438.



Debra Figone  
City Manager